
Subject:

Email from Bill Collins

From: Bill [<mailto:94116bc@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 5:35 PM

To: commentletters

Subject: Support Delta water flows

November 13, 2013

Dear Chairman Marcus and Members of the SWRCB:

Some purport that river water that flows to the sea is wasted. As you know, fisheries depend on adequate flows for healthy fish populations which many people depend on for employment and food.

Some seek to justify diverting most of the water from the delta by saying that their jobs are at stake, but the unemployment rate for in the commercial salmon industry here on the coast was 100% for the years when the salmon fishery was closed.

Most of the San Joaquin River's natural flow must reach the Delta in the winter-spring months, and flows in the summer and fall must be sufficient to maintain fish and wildlife, water quality and recreational opportunities.

Historically, populations of spawning salmon may have exceeded 400,000 fish in the San Joaquin River Basin, but in many recent years that figure has dropped to fewer than 2,000 fish. Salmon are a keystone species, providing food for other animals and transporting nutrients from the ocean to upland habitats. Over one hundred species depend on salmon.

Low river flows raise water temperatures,

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As you know, the commercial salmon fishery in California is on the brink. The salmon population was so low recently the commercial fishing season had to be cancelled for two years.

As the West Coast's largest estuary, the Bay-Delta provides habitat for more than 500 species of wildlife. It's a major stopover for the Pacific Flyway, and a migration path for sturgeon, salmon, and steelhead traveling to and from their natal streams to the ocean.

Up 2.2 trillion gallons of water each year are pumped from the southern Delta for agriculture and urban uses. Through better water management, including efficient

irrigation practices, and replacing lower-value, water-intensive crops with higher-value, water-efficient crops, we could grow more food with less water. And we should.

The SWRCB can show the way by making such steps essential. There's little incentive to stop wastage if water is seen as abundant.

Sincerely,

Bill Collins

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